



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW, SUITE 200 SOUTH
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

Nebraska

Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund (1st Round – Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development – Public or Private Support Category)

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska
Program Type: State-wide non-profit financial intermediary
Service Area: Nebraska
Target Group: Microenterprise lenders in urban and rural Nebraska
Contact: Eugene Severens, Executive Director - (402) 863-2577

The Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund is a model public-private partnership that provides a comprehensive system of funding and technical support to the state's emerging microenterprise industry. Within a short period of time, the Partnership Fund has sown the seeds of a strong state-wide network of grassroots microenterprise organizations. The Partnership Fund is an initiative housed within the Nebraska Community Foundation.

The Partnership Fund demonstrates excellence as a model for how Federal, state and local government can join with community foundations, corporations, and non-profits to support microenterprise. The Awardee serves as a financial intermediary, raising money from public and private sources to provide grants and loans to microlending organizations. The Federal government and State of Nebraska provided 92% of the initial seed capital for the Partnership Fund in 1995. Corporations and foundations quickly followed suit – today providing nearly half of the Partnership Fund's annual funding.

The Partnership Fund takes a multi-pronged approach to building Nebraska's microenterprise network. The Partnership fund encourages its grantees to strive for excellence through a performance based funding system that rewards organizations that increase the number of entrepreneurs or poor people they serve. In its most recent funding round, it awarded nearly \$520,000 in grants and loans to microenterprise organizations serving urban and rural communities. The Fund is also building the capacity of micro lenders through the comprehensive technical support of its program design and development assistance, information clearinghouse, and research and evaluation activities. The Partnership Fund played a critical role in organizing a 50-member, state-wide microenterprise network, the Nebraska Enterprise Opportunity Network (NEON), which has also received national recognition.

First National Bank of Omaha (1999 BEA)

Location: Omaha, Nebraska
Award: \$62,019
Contact: Edward Kentch - (402) 341-0500

First National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska received an award of \$62,019 for increasing its single-family housing, multi-family housing, commercial real estate, and small business and agricultural lending. In total, the bank provided development and service activities of \$16.3 million in distressed communities within Omaha. First National Bank of Omaha is a national bank with total assets of \$4.0 billion.

Omaha 100, Inc. (1998 CDFI-Tech Asst)

Location: Omaha, Nebraska
Award: \$25,000 technical assistance grant
Type: Housing/Facilities Loan Fund
Contact: Louis A. Wright - (402) 342-3773

Omaha 100, Inc. is a nonprofit financial institution whose goal is to finance 100 units of affordable housing every year for low-income families in the inner city neighborhoods of Omaha. A CDFI Fund technical assistance grant will enable Omaha 100 to obtain staff training in loan underwriting, tax credit financing, and loan, credit, and post-purchase counseling as well as hire consultants to design new lending products and formulate lending policies and procedures.

Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund (1997 CDFI-Intermediary Round 2)

Location: Rosalie, Nebraska
Award: \$350,000 grant
Type: Intermediary
Contact: Eugene Severens - (402) 863-2577

Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund is a start-up CDFI intermediary that supports the formation of microenterprise development CDFIs in distressed rural, urban and Native American communities across the state of Nebraska. The Partnership Fund represents an innovative effort to build the capacity of small organizations serving diffuse communities through performance-based lending and program development grants. With the Fund's assistance in the form of a grant for \$350,000, leveraged with support from the state of Nebraska, the Partnership Fund will support a Seed Fund to provide capital to local microenterprise organizations, each of which must provide matching funds – further leveraging the Fund's support of microenterprise across the state.